

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 091633

12

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:LB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

PM/ISO:MPASZTALANIEC

NEA/RA:SPALMER

S/S-MR. ORTIZ

----- 097865

O R 160132Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 091633

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MPOL, MU, UK, US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO US REQUEST TO DELAY INFORMING

SULTAN QABOOS OF DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM MASIRAH

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 84477, (B) LONDON 5586

1. UK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE MUIR ORALLY DELIVERED HMG
RESPONSE TO US REQUEST FOR DELAY ON PART OF HMG IN
INFORMING SULTAN QABOOS OF HMG'S INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM
MASIRAH ISLAND (REFTEL A) APRIL 14.

2. MUIR SAID FCO IMPLICITLY IS WILLING TO DELAY APPROACH
TO SULTAN QABOOS UNTIL CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL US-UK GULF
TALKS (NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 22-23), BUT HOPES THESE
TALKS "WILL BRING THE MATTER TO A CONCLUSION." HE RE-
ITERATED THAT HMG DECISION TO LEAVE MASIRAH IS "A FIRM
ONE." HMG REGRETFULLY CANNOT DELAY APPROACH TO SULTAN
UNTIL JUNE 1, AS REQUESTED BY USG, SINCE UK COULD NOT
THEN COMPLETE ITS PLANNED WITHDRAWAL FROM MASIRAH BY
END OF 1976.

3. MUIR SAID HMG BELIEVED FROM TALKS WITH DEPUTY MINISTER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 091633

OF DEFENSE SAYYID FAHAR THAT OMAN GOVERNMENT IS ASSUMING

EARLY UK WITHDRAWAL FROM MASIRAH AND IS PROBABLY CONSIDERING OMANI USE OF AIRFIELD THEREAFTER AS TRAINING FACILITY AND STAGING BASE. OMANI INTEREST IN CONTINUING OPERATION OF AIR BASE BASED ON DESIRE TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO INHABITANTS OF ISLAND. OMAN MAY ALSO MAKE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO OTHER GULF STATES.

4. MUIR SAID UK GULF TALKS DELEGATION (WEIR AND LUCAS) WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED BY DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 7 (REFTEL A). MEANWHILE WE ASKED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WHICH MUIR AGREED TO TRANSMIT TO LONDON: WHAT IS UK ASSESSMENT OF OMANI ABILITY TO RUN MASIRAH AIRFIELD? WHAT PLANS MIGHT HMG HAVE FOR ITS OWN ACCESS TO BASE AS STAGING AREA AFTER UK WITHDRAWAL? WHAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCES OF HMG ON LIMITATIONS ON FUEL DELIVERIES TO MASIRAH? WHAT ARE CURRENT BRITISH PLANS WITH REGARD TO SALALAH?

5. BOTH SIDES NOTED THAT QUESTION OF SENSITIVE FACILITIES ON MASIRAH WAS APPARENTLY BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN US AND UK EXPERTS. DEPARTMENT WOULD INQUIRE INTO STATUS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, TO ASCERTAIN HOW AND IF THEY MIGHT BE RELEVANT TO BROADER MASIRAH QUESTIONS, PRIOR TO GULF TALKS.

6. MUIR SAID THAT, IF USG WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC TECHNICAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING MASIRAH, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR HMG TO INCLUDE MILITARY EXPERT IN GULF TALKS DELEGATION. WE HAVE TOLD MUIR THIS UNNECESSARY SINCE DOD DOES NOT DESIRE AT THIS TIME TO INITIATE SUCH TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS.

7. MUIR ALSO BROUGHT HMG SUGGESTIONS FOR GULF TALKS AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDE ITEM ON "GULF SECURITY", WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MASIRAH. HE SUGGESTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THIS BROAD DISCUSSION BY FULL UK DELEGATION ON APRIL 22, THERE WOULD BE TIME ON APRIL 23 FOR LUCAS TO DISCUSS SEPARATELY MASIRAH IN GREATER DETAIL WITH INTERESTED USG OFFICERS. US SIDE AGREED, AND WILL UNDERTAKE TO ASCERTAIN DOD INTEREST. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MASIRAH, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE091633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PDMOLINEAUX:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760144-0087
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760453/aaaabszc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 84477, 76 LONDON 5586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESPONSE TO US REQUEST TO DELAY INFORMING SULTAN QABOOS OF DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM MASIRAH
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MPOL, MU, UK, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006